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her ; yet each may add at least, a nameless stone to the pyramid of her glory, may contribute something to the instruction of his fellow-citizens, and something to the stability of the government. The humblest among us has a little circle round him, whom his warning checks, his example guides, and his approbation animates, by enlightening whose understandings, and elevating whose sentiments, he may give material, if not illustrious support to institutions, which are founded solely on the principles and feelings of the people ; for under such institutions, and among such a people, private virtue is the first of publick duties, and an honourable life the noblest service that we can render to our country.

BOOKS RELATING TO AMERICA.

Mr. Cooke's just and seasonable vindication ; respecting some affairs transacted in the late General Assembly at Boston, 1720.

MR. COOKE was for several years a representative from Boston in the Legislature, and was chosen speaker. The Governour, Shute, having had some previous disagreement with Cooke, refused to acknowledge him as Speaker, and requested the House to choose another. They however adhered to their choice, and denied the Governour's right to put a negative on their choice ; after sitting a few days, the Governour dissolved the House. This pamphlet is only interesting as it shews the resistance to arbitrary encroachment, and the jealous adherence to popular privileges, which always distinguished the people of Massachusetts.

The deplorable state of New-England, by reason of a covetous and treacherous Governour and pusillanimous Counsellors, with a vindication of the Honorable Mr. Higginson, Mr. Mason, and several other gentlemen, from the scandalous and wicked accusation of the votes ordered by them to be published in their Boston News-Letter. To which is added an account of the shameful miscarriage of the late expedition against Port Royal. London, printed 1708, re-printed 1721.

THIS pamphlet written with great warmth, lays open the disputes which existed between Governour Dudley and
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some leading characters, who opposed his designs. He appears to have been not very scrupulous in the means of increasing his fortune, and was desirous of getting rid of the Charter and making the government completely arbitrary. The colonies were frequently exposed to contests and evils from this source. Governours were sent out to make their fortunes, and cared but little for the rights of those they were sent to govern. Even in those early times, when the population was so much less, and there were few individuals who from wealth or talent were powerful in society ; these arbitrary magistrates met with great opposition in their designs. A sagacious mind looking to futurity would have easily anticipated that such a system could not last, and that the parent state must either prepare some new system for the future independent government of the country, or it would be done by the inhabitants themselves, as in due time came to pass.



A friendly debate : or a Dialogue between Academicus and Sawny and Mundungus two eminent Physicians, about some of their late performances.

Now since we live in such a fulsome age,
When nonsense loads the press and choaks the stage ;
When blockheads will claim wit in nature's spight,
And ev'ry dunce that stares, presumes to write ;
Exert yourself.——OTWAY.

Boston, in N. E. printed in the year 1722.

This is a violent and scurilous pamphlet occasioned by a medical quarrel. The origin of this was the introduction of inoculation for the small-pox, which was first practised in America by Dr. Boylston, who rendered an essential service in this way. Of the characters of the dialogue, *Academicus* was Dr. Boylston, *Mundungus*, Dr. Williams, and *Sawny* Dr. Douglass. The pamphlet was attributed to Dr. Boylston, who in this case cannot be accused of too much modesty, as it is dedicated to him with many compliments by *Academicus*. It affords another proof how common it is for physicians in their disputes with each other to pass the bounds of moderation and decency.

Gloria Britannorum ; or the British worthies, a poem. Being an essay on the characters of the most illustrious persons in the camp or cabinet, since the glorious revolution to this present time more particularly of the present ministry, under our most renowned Sovereign Lord King George. To which is added an ode on his Majesty's Coronation, and an elegy on the death of the late glorious Duke of Marlborough. By a lover of the present happy Constitution. Boston, printed by J. Franklin for N. Buttolph, and sold at his shop in Cornhill, 1723.

We have noticed this performance on account of the printer's name, and to inquire whether it may not have been written by Dr. Franklin. He was placed with his elder brother, at twelve years of age, and remained with him till seventeen. During this period he wrote many ballads and poetical pieces, but his father perceiving that he had no talent for poetry discouraged him from pursuing it. There is an allusion in the beginning to the youth of the author, and the whole poem contains nothing that would be worth claiming by Dr. Franklin, even as a boyish production. It begins thus :

“ Sicilian Muse ! the rural strain forbear
Nor urge the verdant spring, nor blooming year,
Tho' Flora's charms have sweetly tun'd thy Lyre,
Yet now a nobler theme my verse does fire,
To sing of Heroes deeds.

Ye heavenly Nymphs assist me with your lays
To sing such heroes worthy of your praise ;
And you bright sons of Harvard where the Nine
And great Apollo consecrate their shrine,
For wisdom fam'd, the rude attempt excuse,
Accept an offering from an infant Muse,
That in adventurous numbers first would sing
The fam'd Nassau, the great, the warlike King.”

Pietas in Patriam : The life of his Excellency Sir William Phips, Knt. Late Captain General, and Governour in Chief of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay, New-England. Containing the Memorable Changes Undergone, and Actions Performed by Him. Written by one intimately acquainted with Him.

Discite Virtutem ex Hoc, verumque, Laborem.

London, printed by S. Bridge, 1697.

This life of Sir W. Phips was written by Cotton Mather, and like many of his productions is full of learning, quaintness and credulity. Governour Phips was one of the remarkable characters of our early history. He was born February 2, 1650, "at a despicable plantation on the river Kennebeck;" his mother had twenty-six children, of whom twenty-one were boys. He very early discovered the energy and enterprise of a superiour mind, and to prepare himself for seeking his fortune on the sea, he bound himself to a ship-carpenter for four years, and afterwards constructed a vessel with which he went to Boston. The great cause of his prosperity in life, was his good fortune, finding the wreck of a Spanish plate ship that had been lost fifty years before on the coast of Hispaniola. The hope of recovering this treasure took strong possession of his mind, and he went to England to solicit assistance in the undertaking. After a variety of delays and disappointments he succeeded in fitting out a ship, and finding the wreck. He obtained from it about three hundred thousand pounds; very considerable sums were also obtained by others. Of this sum the projector to whom the whole merit of the enterprise was due, received only sixteen thousand pounds. He was knighted by King James, and success having made his merit conspicuous, several places were offered him in England, but the love of his native country made him decline them all. The King made him Governour of Massachusetts, and he returned with the new charter. His administration was an active one; in the course of it, the disgraceful transactions relating to witchcraft in Essex took place, and the progress of the delusion was stopped by

him ; it may be difficult now to decide whether it was in his power to have prevented this most odious business, from going such lengths. His expedition against Quebec, terminated unfortunately, and much blame was thrown upon him in consequence. The ill success of it however was owing to the expedition sailing from Boston too late in the season ; and the New-York government having failed in their co-operation, which enabled the Count de Frontenac to withdraw his troops from Montreal, just in time to save Quebec. The author begins his work in the following manner :

“ If such a Renowned Chymist, as *Quercetanus*, with a whole Tribe of *Labourers in the Fire*, since that Learned Man, find it no easie thing to make the common part of Mankind believe, That they can take a *Plant* in it's more vigorous Consistence, and after a due *Maceration*, *Fermentation* and *Separation*, extract the *Salt* of that *Plant*, which, as it were, in a *Chaos*, invisibly reserves the *Form* of the whole, with its vital Principle ; and, that keeping the *Salt* in a *Glass* Hermetically sealed, they can, by applying a *Soft Fire* to the *Glass*, make the *Vegetable* rise by little and little, out of its *Ashes*, to surprize the Spectators with a notable Illustration of that *Resurrection*, in the Faith whereof the *Jews* returning from the Graves of their Friends, pluck up the *Grass* from the Earth, using those Words of the Scripture thereupon, *Your Bones shall flourish like an Herb* : 'Tis likely, that all the Observations of such Writers, as the incomparable *Borellus*, will find it hard enough to produce our Belief, that the *Essential Salts* of *Animals*, may be so prepared and Preserved that an Ingenious man, may have the whole *Ark* of *Noah* in his own Study, and raise the fine *shape* of an *Animal* out of it's *Ashes*, at his pleasure : and, that by the like Method, from the *Essential Salts* of *Humane Dust*, a Philosopher may, without any Criminal *Necromancy*, call up the *shape* of any *Dead Ancestor* from the *Dust* whereinto his *Body* has bin Incinerated.”

Mr. Mather appears to have been much disconcerted at the obscurity of his hero's origin, and therefore introduces his account of it, by a mention of Eumenes, Marius, Iphicrates, Dioclesian, Bonosus, Cardinal Mazarin, and

Pizarro. When he mentions his having learnt the trade of ship-building, he says, "he became a master of the trade, that once in a vessel of more than forty thousand Tons, repaired the Ruines of the earth." A ludicrous specimen of style occurs in his relation of the miseries that were endured by the crew of one of the vessels that was wrecked on the island of Antecosti in returning from the expedition against Quebec ; they were obliged to winter there, and after enduring the greatest hardships, a small number of them survived and were taken off. The small quantity of provisions they had saved were frequently robbed, and severe punishments were inflicted on the culprits ; but there was one whose appetite placed them in the most imminent danger,—“There was a wicked Irishman among them, who had such a voracious Devil in him, that after divers burglaries upon the store-house, committed by him, at last he stole, and eat with such a Pamphagous fury as to cram himself with no less than eighteen biskets, at one stolen meal, and he was fain to have his belly strok’d and bath’d before the fire, lest it should otherwise have burst. This amazing and indeed murderous villainy of the Irishman, brought them all to their wits ends, how to defend themselves from the ruin therein threatened unto them ; and whatever modes were proposed, it was feared, that there could be no stop given to his furacious exorbitancies, any way but one ; he could not be past stealing, unless he were past eating too. Some think therefore that they might have sentenced the wretch to die, and after they had been at pains on christian and spiritual accounts to prepare him for it, have executed the sentence by shooting him to death ; concluding matters come to that pass, that if they had not shot him he must have starved then unavoidably.” What became of this unlucky Irishman does not clearly appear from the author’s narrative.

The following extract is the first part of the 16th section, it is only a part of Dr. Mather’s opinions on witchcraft. The deplorable scenes that had happened under the delusion, which the author had been very instrumental in exciting, were now ended, which he seems to have regretted, and was still anxious to justify the proceedings of those who believed in witchcraft. The absurdity of his reasoning can only be equalled by that of his belief. We shall observe upon the subject further under the next article.

“ About the time of our Blessed Lord’s coming to Reside on Earth, we read of so many *possessed with Devils*, that it is commonly thought the *Number* of such Miserable *Energumens* was then encreased above what has been usual in other Ages ; and the *Reason* of that Increase, has been made a Matter of some Enquiry. Now-though the *Devils* might herein design by *Preternatural Operations* to Blast the *Miracles* of our Lord Jesus Christ, which Point they Gained among the Blasphemous *Pharisees* ; and the *Devils* might herein also design a villanous *Imitation* of what was coming to pass in the *Incarnation* of our Lord Jesus Christ, wherein *God* came to *dwell in Flesh* ; yet I am not without suspicion that there may be something further in the Conjecture of the Learned *Bartholinus* hereupon, who says, It was *Quod judæi præter modum, Artibus Magicis dediti Dæmonem Advocaverint*, the *Jews*, by the frequent use of *Magical Tricks*, called in the *Devils* among them.

“ It is very certain, there were hardly any People in the World grown more fond of *Sorceries*, than that unhappy People : The *Talmuds* tell us of the little *Parchments* with the Words upon them, which were their common *Amulets*, and of the *Charms* which they mutter’d over *Wounds*, and the various *Enchantments* which they used against all sorts of Disasters whatsoever. It is affirmed in the *Talmuds*, that no less than Twenty four Scholars in one School, were killed by *Witchcraft* ; and that no less than *fourscore* Persons were hanged for *Witchcraft* by one Judge in one Day. The *Gloss* adds upon it, *That the Women of Israel had generally fallen to the Practice of Witchcrafts* ; and therefore it was required, That there should be still chosen into the Council, One skilful in the *Arts of Sorcerers*, and able thereby to discover who might be guilty of those *Black Arts* among such as were accused before them.

“ Now the Arrival of Sir *William Phips* to the Government of *New-England*, was at a Time, when a Governour would have had Occasion for all the Skill in *Sorcerie*, that was ever necessary to a *Jewish Councillor* ; A Time when Scores of poor people had newly fallen under, a prodigious *Possession of Devils*, which it was then generally thought had been by *Witchcrafts* introduced. It is to be confessed and Bewailed, That many Inhabitants of *New-England*, and Young people especially, had been Led away with Little

Sorceries, wherein they *did Secretly those Things that were not Right against the Lord their God* ; They would often cure Hurts with *Spells*, and practise detestable Conjurations with *Sieves*, and *Keys*, and *Pease*, and *Nails* and *Horse-shoes*, and other Implements, to Learn the Things, for which they had a forbidden and impious Curiosity. Wretched Books had stoln into the Land, wherein Fools were instructed, how to become able Fortune-Tellers : Among which, I wonder that a blacker Brand is not set upon that Fortune-telling Wheel, which that Sham-Scribler, that goes under the Letters of *R. B.* has proposed in his *Delights for the Ingenious*, as an *honest and pleasant Recreation* : And by these Books, the minds of many had been so poisoned, that they studied this *Finer Witchcraft* ; until, 'tis well, if some of them were not betray'd, into what is grosser, and more sensible and Capital. Although these *Diabolical Divinations* are more ordinarily committed perhaps all over the *whole World*, than they are in the Country of *New-England*, yet, That being a Country Devoted unto the Worship and Service of the Lord *JESUS CHRIST* above the *Rest of the World*. He signalized his Vengeance against these wickednesses, with such extraordinary Dispensations, as have not been often seen in others Places.

“ The *Devils*, which had been so play'd withal, and, it may be, by some few Criminals more Explicitely engaged and imployed, now broke in upon the Country, after as astonishing a manner, as was ever heard of. Some scores of People, first about *Salem*, the Centre and first Born, of all the Towns in the Colony, and afterwards in several other Places, were arrested with many *Præternatural Vexations* upon their Bodies, and a variety of cruel Torments, which were evidently inflicted from the *Dæmons* of the *Invisible World*. The People that were *infected* and *infested* with such *Dæmons*, in a few Days Time, arrived unto such a *Refining Alteration* upon their Eyes, that they could see their Tormentors ; they saw a *Devil* of a little *Stature*, and of a *Tawny Colour*, attended still with *Spectres*, that appeared in more Humane Circumstances.

“ These *Tormentors*, tendred unto the Afflicted, a *Book*, requiring them to *Sign* it, or to *Touch* it, at least, in token of their consenting to be Listed in the Service of the *Devil* ; which, they refusing to do, the *Spectres* under

the command of that *Blackman*, as they called him, would apply themselves to Torture them, with prodigious Molestations.

“ The afflicted Wretches were horribly *Distorted* and *Convulsed* ; they were *Pinched* Black and Blew ; *Pins* would be run every where in their *Flesh* ; they would be *scalded* until they had *Blisters* raised on them ; and a thousand other things before Hundreds of Witnesses were done unto them, evidently *Præternatural* : For, if it were *Præternatural*, to keep a rigid *Fast*, for *Nine*, yea, for *Fifteen* Days together ; or, if it were *Præternatural*, to have ones *Hands* *ty'd* close together, with a *Rope* to be plainly seen, and then by *unseen Hands* presently pull'd up a great way from the *Earth*, before a croud of *People* : Such *Præternatural* Things were endured by them.

“ But of all the *Præternatural* Things which beset these *People*, there were none more *unaccountable* than those, wherein the præstigious *Dæmons* would ever now and then cover the most *Corporeal* Things in the *World*, with a *Fascinating Mist* of *Invisibility*. As now ; a *Person* was cruelly assaulted by a *Spectre*, that, she said, run at her with a *Spindle*, though no *Body* else in the *Room* could see either the *Spectre* or the *Spindle* : At last, in her *Agonies*, giving a snatch at the *Spectre*, she pulled the *Spindle* away ; and it was no sooner got into her *Hand*, but the other *Folks* then present, beheld that it was indeed a real, proper, *Iron Spindle* ; which when they locked up very safe, it was nevertheless by the *Dæmons* taken away to do farther *Mischief*.

“ Again ; A *Person* was haunted by a most abusive *Spectre*, which came to her, she said, with a *Sheet* about her, though seen to none but her self. After she had undergone a deal of *Teaze*, from the Annoyance of the *Spectre*, she gave a violent *snatch* at the *Sheet* that was upon it ; where-from she tore a *Corner*, which in her *Hand*, immediately was beheld by all that were present ; a palpable *Corner* of a *Sheet* : And her *Father*, which was now holding of her, *catch'd*, that he might *keep*, what his *Daughter* had so strangely siezed ; but the *Spectre* had like to have wrung his *Hand* off, by endeavouring to wrest it from him : However he still held it ; and several times this odd *Accident* was renewed in the *Family*. There wanted not the *Oaths* of good credible *People*, to these particulars.

“ Also, It is well known, that these wicked *Spectres* did proceed so far as to steal several Quantities of Money from divers People, part of which Individual Money, was dropt sometimes out of the Air, before sufficient *Spectators*, into the Hands of the Afflicted, while the *Spectres* were urging them to subscribe their *Covenant with Death*. Moreover, *Poisons* to the standers-by, wholly *Invisible*, were sometimes forced upon the Afflicted ; which when they have with much Reluctancy swallowed, they have *swoln* presently, so that the common Medecines for *Poisons* have been found necessary to relieve them : Yea, sometimes the *Spectres* in the *struggles*, have so dropt the *Poisons*, that the Standers-by have smelt them, and view’d them, and beheld the *Pillows* of the miserable stained with them.

“ Yet more, the miserable have complained bitterly of *burning Rags* run into their forceably distended *Mouths*, and though no body could see any such *Clothes*, or, indeed any *Fires* in the Chambers, yet presently the *scalds* were seen plainly, by every Body, on the Mouths of the Complainers, and not only the *Smell*, but the *Smoke* of the Burning, sensibly fill’d the Chambers.

“ Once more ; the miserable exclaimed extreamly of *Branding Irons* heating at the Fire on the *Hearth*, to mark them ; now though the standers-by could see no *Irons*, yet they could see distinctly the Print of them in the Ashes, and *smell* them too as they were carried by the *not-seen Furies*, unto the Poor Creatures for whom they were intended ; and those Poor Creatures were thereupon so *stigmatized* with them, that they will bear the *Marks* of them to their Dying Day. Nor are these the *Tenth Part* of the *Prodigies* that fell out among the Inhabitants of *New-England*.

“ Flashy People may *Burlesque* these Things, but when Hundreds of the most sober People in a Country, where they have as much *Mother-Wit* certainly, as the rest of Mankind, know them to be *True*, nothing but the absurd and froward Spirit of *Sadducism* can Question them. I have not yet mentioned so much as one Thing that will not be justified, if it be required, by the *Oaths* of more considerate Persons than any that can ridicule these odd *Phænomena*.

“ But the worst part of this astonishing *Tragedy* is yet behind ; wherein Sir *William Phips*, at last, being dropt, as it were from the *Machin of Heaven*, was an Instrument of easing the Distresses of the Land, now so *darkened by the Wrath of the Lord of Hosts*. There were very worthy Men upon the spot, where the *assault from Hell* was first made, who apprehended themselves call'd from the *God of Heaven*, to sift the business unto the bottom of it ; and, indeed, the continual *Impressions*, which the outcries and the havocks of the *afflicted People* that lived nigh unto them, caused on their Minds, gave no little Edge to this Apprehension.

“ The Persons were Men eminent for *Wisdom and Virtue*, and they went about their enquiry into the matter as *driven* unto it, by a *Conscience of Duty* to God and the World. They did in the first Place, take it for granted, that there are *Witches*, or, wicked Children of Men, who upon *Covenanting* with, and *Commissioning of Evil Spirits*, are attended by their Ministry to accomplish the Things desired of them : To satisfie them in which perswasion, they had not only the *Assertions of the Holy Scripture* ; Assertions, which the *Witch-Advocates* cannot evade without shifts, too foolish for any *Prudent*, or too profane for any *Honest Man*, to use ; and they had not only the well-attested *Relations* of the gravest Authors from *Bodin* to *Bovet*, and from *Binsfeld* to *Bromhal* and *Baxter*, to deny all which, would be as reasonable as to turn the *Chronicles* of all Nations into Romances, of *Don Quixot*, and the *seven Champions* ; but they had also an *Ocular Demonstration* in one, who a little before had been executed for *Witchcraft*, when *Joseph Dudley Esquire* was the Chief Judge. There was one whose *Magical Images* were found, and who *confessing her Deeds*, (when a Jury of Doctors returned her, *Compos Mentis*) actually shewed the whole Court, by what *Ceremonies* used unto them, she directed her *Familiar Spirits*, how and where to Cruciate the Objects of her Malice ; and the Experiments being made over and over again, before the whole Court, the *Effect* followed exactly, in the Hurts done to People at a distance from her. The Existence of such *Witches*, was now taken for granted by those good Men, wherein so far the generality of reasonable Men, have thought, *they*

ran well ; and they soon received the *confessions* of some *accused* Persons to confirm them in it ; but then, they took one thing more for granted, wherein 'tis now as generally thought they *went out of the Way*. The Afflicted People vehemently accused several Persons in several Places, that the *Spectres* which afflicted them, did exactly resemble *Them* ; until the importunity of the Accusations did provoke the Magistrates to examine them. When many of the *accused* came upon their Examination, it was found, that the *Dæmons*, then a thousand ways abusing of the poor afflicted People, had with a marvellous exactness *represented* them ; yea it was found that many of the *accused*, but casting their Eye on the *afflicted*, the *afflicted*, though their Faces were never so much another way, would fall down and lye in a sort of a swoon, wherein they would continue, whatever Hands were laid upon them, until the Hands of the *accused* came to touch them, and *then* they would revive immediately : And it was found, that various kinds of *natural Actions* done by many of the *accused* in or to their own Bodies, of *Leaning, Bending, Turning Awry, or Squeezing* their Hands or the like, were presently attended with the like things *præternaturally* done upon the Bodies of the *Afflicted*, though they were so far asunder that the *Afflicted* could not at all observe the *Accused*.

“ It was also found that the *Flesh* of the Afflicted was often *Bitten*, at such a rate, that not only the *Print of Teeth* would be left on their *Flesh*, but the very *Slaver* of Spittle too : And there would appear just such a *set of Teeth*, as was in the *Accused*, even such as might be clearly distinguished from other Peoples. And usually the *Afflicted* went through a terrible deal of seeming Difficulties from the tormenting *Spectres*, and must be long waited on, before they could get a Breathing Space from their *Torments*, to give in their Testimonies.”



More wonders of the invisible world, or the wonders of the invisible world displayed in five parts. Part 1. An account of the sufferings of Margaret Rule, written by the Rev. C. M. Part 2nd. Several letters to

the author, &c. and his reply relating to witchcraft. Part 3d. The differences between the inhabitants of Salem village, and Mr. Parris their minister, in New-England. Part 4th. Letters of a gentleman uninterested, endeavouring to prove the received opinions about witchcraft to be orthodox, with short essays to their answers. Part 5. A short historical account of matters of fact in that affair. To which is added a postscript relating to a book entitled, the life of Sir William Phips, collected by Robert Calef, merchant of Boston in New-England. London, printed for Nath. Hiller, at the Princes Arms, 1700 4to. pp. 156.

Mr. Calef, the author of this work, deserves great praise for having manfully withstood a delusion, which was so strong, had such powerful patrons, and was so fatal in its consequences, that most persons were afraid to appear in opposition. In his discussion with Cotton Mather, he is as superiour to him in reasoning, as he was in good sense and courage. The work contains all the particulars of the monstrous proceedings in the cases of the witches; fanaticism and fear were both united in the cause, and it is not therefore wonderful, that the cruelty could only be equalled by the absurdity of these transactions. It is impossible to read the account of them without indignation; and if justice had been done, Mr. Parris, one of the clergymen of Salem, and some of the accusers, and we are not certain but Mr. Mather, who did more than any other person to excite, and after the proceedings were arrested by the government, to renew, these horrible persecutions, would have been executed for having procured the death of so many innocent individuals. We shall only extract two or three sentences from Dr. Mather's account of Margaret Rule, to shew what was the character of the accusers, for Dr. Mather's own account, will be sufficient to give an idea of his protegee; and no comment is necessary to fix opinion about a man, who laboured with all his might, to make use of wretches like her, to destroy the lives of the innocent. His learning was very considerable, but his folly and his credulity were unlimited. "There was one in the north part of Boston, seized by the evil angels many months after the general storm of the late Inchant-

ments was over, and when the country had long lain pretty quiet, both as to molestations and accusations from the invisible world. Her name was Margaret Rule, a young woman, she was born of sober and honest parents, yet living, but what her own character was before her visitation, I can speak with the less confidence of exactness, because I observe, that wherever the Devils have been let loose, to worry any poor creature among us, a great part of the neighbourhood presently set themselves to inquire, and relate all the little vanities of their childhood, with such unequal exaggerations, as to make them appear greater sinners than any whom the Pilate of Hell has not yet preyed upon. But it is affirmed that for about half a year before her visitation, she was observably improved in the hopeful symptoms of a new creature ; she was become furiously concerned for the everlasting salvation of her soul, and careful to avoid the snares of evil company." At the time the government interfered and stopt the prosecutions, twenty persons had been executed, eight more condemned ; about fifty had confessed themselves to be witches, above an hundred and fifty were in prison, and two hundred more accused.

This country was not the only one that was disgraced by trials and executions for witchcraft. In Sweden, England, and France, similar enormities had taken place a few years before. We may perhaps flatter ourselves that similar crimes cannot be perpetrated again ; because the upper classes of society are too enlightened to countenance such atrocious absurdities. There is, however, a great fund of superstition remaining among the ignorant on which knavery and fanaticism may always draw with confidence. In this country and every other, there are still sybils and magicians who are consulted by the vulgar. There is less of this in the United States than in perhaps any other country ; there is more than one individual in London and Paris, who obtain a living by telling their fortunes to the credulous, and those who consult them, particularly in the latter city, are not always of the lowest rank. The disgraceful imposture in England, of that poor, lunatick, Joanna Southcote, which lasted so long and terminated last year by her death ; is a proof that society owe their security from evils of this nature, to the more enlightened state

of governments in our times. Had there been any interference, either by the ecclesiastical authority, or by the police, as many rash persons desired; the blasphemous and ridiculous absurdities of that woman might have taken deep root, and occasioned lasting mischief. Her followers consisted of tens, some said hundreds of thousands; among them were some clergymen, and many persons of property; all these would have cried out, if government had interfered, and the impostor herself would have been canonized in the belief of her stupid votaries. The extent of the delusion, in times like these, when information is so widely spread, may moderate our censures of our ancestors, who were placed under circumstances so widely different.

In Mr. Calef's observations on the Rev. Dr. Mather's life of Sir W. Phips, there are some interesting particulars of the manner in which the new charter was obtained from the King, the old one having been resumed by a *quo warranto*.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTH-AMERICAN JOURNAL.

Sir,

The uncommon weather which we have experienced since May last, and the late appearances in the sun having excited an unusual degree of attention to meteorological observations, the following paper may probably be interesting to a considerable portion of your readers.

There might be some hesitation in repeating the narrative of such singular and unexplained phenomena, were it not for the respectable source from which the information is derived. M. Acharius is a gentleman of scientific eminence, whose name and reputation are well known, and his communication has a place in the collections of a respectable literary society, of which he is a member. The translation of his paper, which has been obligingly presented to me by Mr. Hauff, is transmitted to you for publication, if you should consider it an acceptable contribution to your valuable miscellany. Some of your readers, perhaps, may be induced to compare the account given by M. Acharius, with